Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer functioning as a computer-based network switch, comprising:

a first network adapter for connecting to an external network;

a plurality of second network adapters each for forming a connection with a network server in a private network;

a switching component for receiving network communication data from the external network through the first network adapter and directing the received network communication data to the second network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto; and

a test control component for selectively disabling the second network adapters to create failure of physical connections between the second network adapters and the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto, the test controller further including a third network adapter for connecting the test control component to a server testing controller on the external network to allow the test control component to communicate with the server testing controller.

2. Cancelled

3. (original) A computer as in claim 1, wherein the switching component is programmed to operate on network communication data passing

therethrough to create a communication test condition other than a connection failure condition.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to provide a preselected delay to network communication data passing therethrough.

5. (original) A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to selectively drop network communication data.

6. (original) A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to reorder data in a communication stream passing therethrough.

7. (original) A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to introduce errors into network communication data passing therethrough.

8. (original) A computer as in claim 1, wherein the switching component is programmed for monitoring flows of network communication data therethrough from the respective network servers in the private network to the external network.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for controlling a plurality of network adapters in a computer

to create test conditions for testing network servers in a private network, the network servers connected to the network adapters, comprising:

a switching component for receiving network communication data from an external network and directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto;

a test control for selectively disabling the network servers to create failure of physical connections between the network adapters and the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto, and configured for sending/receiving instructions with a server testing controller over a network adapter separate from the network adapters associated with the switching component.

10. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the switching component includes further computer-executable instructions for operating on network communication data passing therethrough to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for selectively buffering network communication data passing therethrough for a preselected delay period.

12. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for selectively dropping network communication data passing therethrough.

13. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for reordering data in a communication stream passing therethrough.

14. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for introducing errors into network communication data passing therethrough.

15. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the test control includes computer-executable instructions for communicating with a server testing controller to receive commands regarding testing of the network servers.

16. (original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the switching component includes further computer-executable instructions for monitoring flows of network communication data from the respective network servers to the external network.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for testing network servers in a private network, comprising:

a computer functioning as a computer-based network switch, including a plurality of network adapters for forming connections to the network servers, a switching component for receiving network communication data from an external network and directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto, and a test control for selectively disabling the network adapters;

a plurality of client computers connected to the external network for communication with the network servers in the private network through the computer-based network switch;

a server testing controller connected ~~to~~ through the external network for coordinating testing of the network servers, including instructing the client computers to send network communication data to the network servers in the private network through the computer-based network switch, and causing the test control to selectively disable the network adapters to create failure of physical connections between the network adapters and the network servers in the private network connected thereto.

18. (original) A system as in claim 17, wherein the switching component is controllable to operate on network communication data passing therethrough to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition.

19. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to selectively buffer network communication data passing therethrough to introduce a preselected delay.

20. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to selectively drop network communication data passing therethrough.

21. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to reorder network communication data passing therethrough.

22. (original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to introduce errors in network communication data passing therethrough.

23. (original) A system as in claim 17, wherein the switching component is programmed for monitoring flows of network communication data from the network servers to the network clients.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a plurality of network servers in a private network, comprising the steps of:

connecting the network servers to a plurality of network adapters;

receiving network communication data from an external network;

directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto;

selectively disabling the network adapters using a test control component to create failure of physical connections between the network adapters and the network servers in the private network connected thereto; and

communicating, using the test control component, to a server testing controller on the external network through a third network adapter separate from others of the plurality of network adapters.

25. (original) A method as in claim 24, further including the step of operating on the network communication data received from the external network to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition before sending the network communication data to the network servers through the network adapters.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes selectively buffering network communication data passing therethrough for a preselected delay period.

27. (original) A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes selectively dropping network communication data passing therethrough.

28. (original) A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes reordering network communication data passing therethrough.

29. (original) A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes introducing errors to network communication data passing therethrough.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 24, further including the step of monitoring flows of network communication data from the network servers to the external network.[[.]]

31. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

a first set of network adaptors configured to connect the computer to a plurality of clients through a first network;

a second set of network adaptors configured to connect the computer to a plurality of servers through a second network;

a switching module configured to identify incoming communication data from the clients received by the first set of network adaptors and to send the communication data to the servers through the second set of network adaptors; and

a testing module including a third network adapter for connecting the testing module to the external network to allow the testing module to communicate with a server testing controller on the external network, the testing module configured to create a failure of a physical connection to at least one of the servers by disabling the network adaptor corresponding to the at least one server in the second set of network adaptors;

wherein a fail-over mechanism associated with the plurality of servers is tested by the failure of the physical connection created by the testing module.